

Celebrating George P. H. Styan's 75th birthday and my meetings with him

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Abstract

The first time I met George Styan was in July 2004 in Lisbon when he was on his way to the 11th ILAS Conference in Coimbra.

But George had already been in Portugal before and I learned how much he was fond of Conventual, a very fine and nice old style restaurant in Lisbon. Then I also learned that George really is an appreciator of good food and a very well-educated wine drinker. With this detail in common it was really easy to become a good friend with George.

Since then we met a number of times, the most significant of which was at the time of the 17th IWMS held in Tomar, Portugal, in 2008.

Before this event, during a short stay of George and Evelyn in Lisbon, we had the opportunity to go to some nice spots like Sintra and to hang around a few nice places near Lisbon and even to attend a Leonard Cohen concert, together with some friends.

Actually, even more than good food and a good wine, and more than a good mathematical challenge, George enjoys the company of his family and his friends. We may even say that more than Mathematics, it is his family and his friends that play and have always played a central role in his life. Everybody knows well how much he cares about Evelyn, the great woman behind the great man, and also everybody knows the looks in George's face when he meets the ones he cares about.

Inevitably, besides addressing some of George's honors and also his scientific work and his interest in mathematics related stamps, it is based on a number of pictures, either taken by the author or by other friends and a couple of them even taken by George himself, that this little contribution to the celebration of George Styan's 75th birthday will be indeed more a celebration of the way George enjoys and nurtures the company of the ones he loves.